



NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

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...Detailed Summary of Oakland Park Tornado: March 29th, 2010...

The NWS survey of the Oakland Park tornado of March 29th, 2010 concluded that the tornado was an EFO on the [Enhanced Fujita scale](#). EFO tornadoes are the most common tornado intensities observed in south Florida. This tornado was comparable to the [Tamarac EFO tornado of February 28, 2007](#). No homes or buildings were uninhabitable, damage was minor. Here were observations taken by Rusty Pfost, WFO Miami Meteorologist-in-Charge and leader of the damage survey:

- First observable damage (other than scattered) visible at Royal Park Condominiums on NW 38th St west of I-95 and west of the railroad, lat 26.17229 lon 80.16406 path only about 50 yards wide, tree damage and some damage to awnings and signs and cars.
- Extensive tree damage, downed power lines in the north end of John D. Easterlin County Park, south side of NW 38th St and just west of the railroad, however no downed trees, just large branches and twigs, power lines down because branches fell across them, buildings in the park seemed OK, many trailers in south end of park untouched, path width 30-40 yards estimated.
- Business park/warehouse area between I-95 and Powerline Rd south of NW 38th Street untouched, no damage. However, two large trees blown down (straight line winds?) on Powerline between Oakland Park Blvd and NW 38th St well south of tornado path; trees lying southwest toward northeast, both on the east side of Powerline.
- Large tree down on house, lying southwest to northeast, at corner of NW 37th Street and Lloyd Dr (843 NW 37th St), tree branch broke a window and crushed a fence, back fence blown down.
- Roof damage (covered with tarp) at Powerline and NW 38th Street.
- Numerous trees down, branches down, fences blown down, one block north and one block south of NW 38th St, width of path approx 100 yards. Tree down at 731 NW 38th Street. Screens blown in and fence down at 711 NW 37th Street. Trees and fences down at intersection of NW 3rd Ave and 38th Street.
- Scattered branches and small trees down, awnings damaged from NW 39th Street and Andrews Ave ENE across NE 40th Street, max width of path 50 yards.
- Baseball fields at City of Oakland Park Wimberly Fields Park had the ball netting destroyed, lying in

heaps across roads and parking areas, some light fence damage but most fences were chain link.

- Across the street from Wimberly Fields Park, roofs, awnings and doors damaged at warehouses/shops along east side of NE 5th Avenue, specifically 4021 NE 5th Ave. Tornado width approx 60-80 yards from extent of tree and warehouse damage, moving ENE.

- Next N-S street east is NE 5th Terrace, several warehouses/businesses damaged here with two somewhat flimsy garage doors blown in, awnings damaged, roof extensively damaged at 4062 NE 5th Terrace, trailer blown sideways into a truck, two people behind garage door say they were blown backwards when garage door was damaged (Picture 1)

- Just ENE from NE 5th Terrace is NE 42nd St, canopy over a large camper was blown away and into power lines at Community Auto Service Center, 801 NE 42nd St, but camper was undamaged. Some tree damage behind center. Lat 26.17845 Lon 80.13672 (Picture 2)

- Next door, at Factory Finish Collision Center, 875 NE 42nd St., large chimney-like metal tower was blown down, but otherwise metal building had no damage. Center's closed circuit video showed tornado as whirling debris for about 20 seconds right before power went off.

- Only minor branches and sign damage observable at Dixie Highway and NE 43rd St.

- End of observable damage, minor damage to air conditioner units south of NE 44 St on NE 11 Avenue, lat 26.18054 lon 80.13235. Tarp blown off supports and down an alley between NE 43rd Court and NE 43rd St.

Max winds estimated near 80 mph, greatest damage along NW 38th St between Powerline and Andrews and along NE 5th Ave and NE 5th Terrace between NE 40th and NE 42nd.

Watches and Warnings

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma issued a Tornado Watch for southeast Florida including Broward County at 235 AM on Monday, March 29th.

A series of severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings were issued by the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office beginning at 449 AM and 453 AM, respectively, when the storms were located over the Everglades of eastern Collier County. As the main area of storms progressed east towards the metro area, additional severe thunderstorm and tornado warning were issued for rural western Broward County.

At 754 AM, a [tornado warning was issued for western and central metro Broward County](#), including the cities of Davie, Weston, Sunrise and Lauderdale Lakes. This was the storm that eventually produced the tornado, and even when the storm was near the I-75 corridor in SW metro Broward, it exhibited strong rotation above the surface. At 819 AM, the [previous tornado warning was updated to include eastern parts of metro Broward including Oakland Park and Pompano Beach](#).

The first ground-truth confirmation reports of a tornado were called in by NWS SKYWARN storm spotters at [830 and 832 AM](#). The first report was from a motorist traveling northbound on I-95 near Oakland Park Blvd who saw the tornado touch down on the highway. The second report was from a citizen who reported trees down east of I-95. These reports were relayed in a timely fashion and validated the warning process by providing ground truth information which was then passed along to the media and general public.

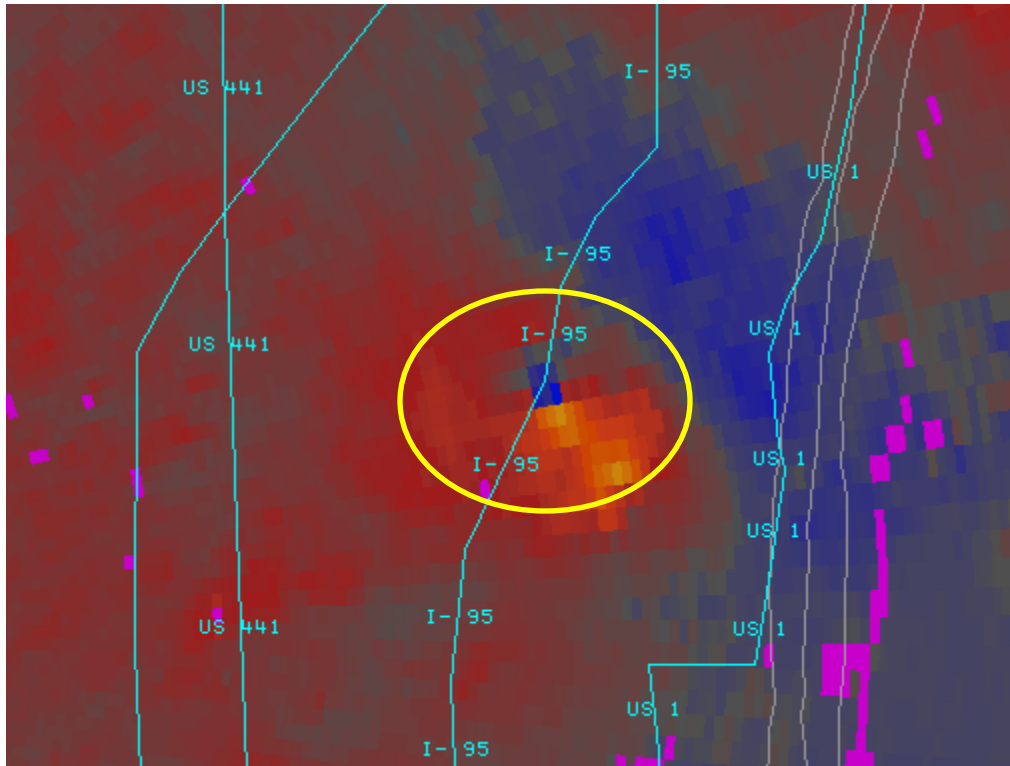


Figure 1: Rotation observed by TFL Doppler Radar at 827 AM. Blue and yellow side-to-side squares inside yellow circle in center of image indicates cyclonic rotation associated with the supercell thunderstorm as it crossed I-95.

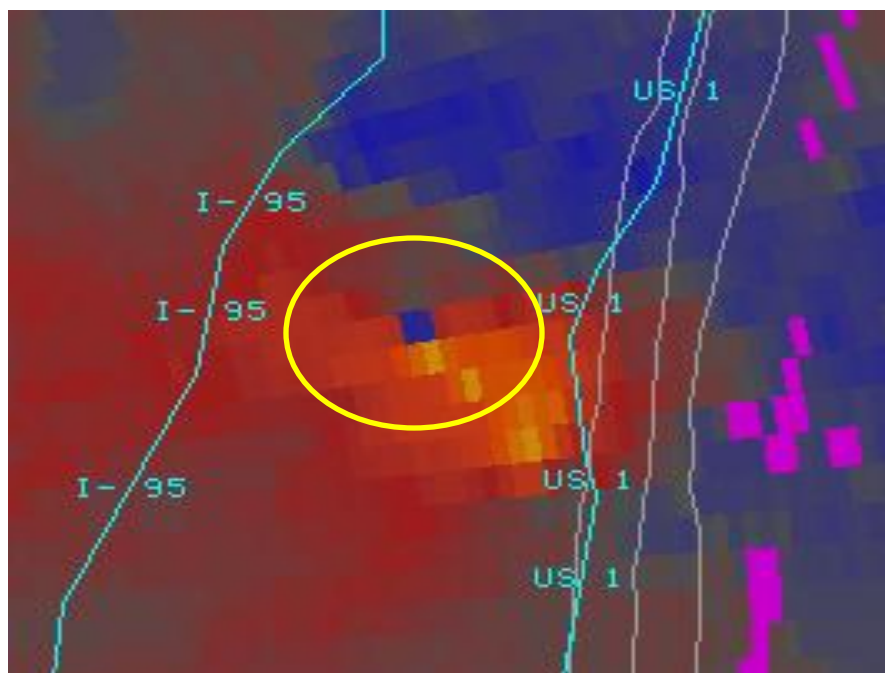


Figure 2: TFL Doppler Radar image at 830 AM. Rotation now between I-95 and US 1 in Oakland Park.

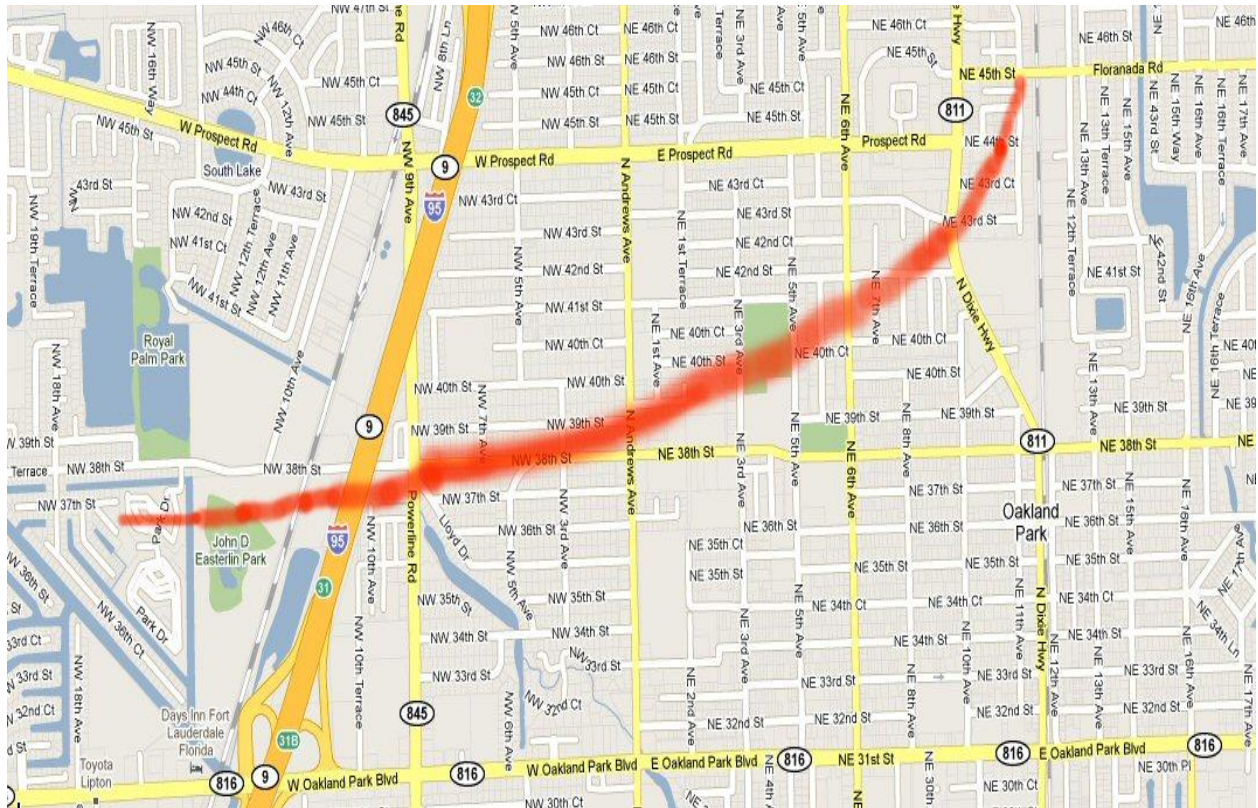


Figure 3: Path of tornado

(Damage pictures below)



Picture 1: roof and garage door damage to warehouse on NE 5th Terrace



Picture 2: camper canopy blown off



Picture 3: Tree blown onto house